# A SOLEMN League and Covenant, FOR Reformation, AND Defence of Religion, The Honour and Happineſſe of the KING, and the Peace and Safety of the three KINGDOMS OF *England, Scotland,* and *Freland.*

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Jer.50.5. *Come, let us joyn our ſelves to the Lord in a perpetuall Covenant that ſhall not be forgotten.*

Prov.25.5. *Take away the Wicked from before the King, and his Throne ſhall be eſtabliſhed in righteouſneſſe.*

2 Chron.15.15. *And all Iudah rejoyced at the Oath, for they had ſworn with all their heart, and ſought him with their whole deſire, and he was found of them; and the Lord gave them reſt round about.*

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*Die Iovis, 21 Sept.* 1643. It is this day Ordered by the Commons in Parliament, That this Covenant be forthwith Printed and publiſhed: *H. Elſynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.*

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*London*, Printed for *Edw. Husbands*, Sept.27. 1643.

A SOLEMN

League and Covenant

FOR

Reformation,

AND

Defence of Religion, The Honour

and Happiness of the King, and the

Peace and Safety of the three

KINGDOMS

OF

England, Scotland, and Ireland.

# A Solemn League and Covenant, for Reformation, and defence of RELIGION; &c.

WE Noblemen, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens, Burgesses, Ministers of the Gospel, and Commons of all sorts in the Kingdoms of *England Scotland*, and *Ireland*, by the Providence of God living under one King, and being of one Reformed Religion, having before our eyes the glory of God, and the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the honour and happiness of the Kings Majesty and His Posterity, and the true publique Liberty, Safety, and Peace of the Kingdoms, wherein every ones private condition is included, and calling to minde the treacherous and bloody Plots, conspiracies, Attempts, and Practices of the Enemies of God, against the true Religion, and professors thereof in all places, especially in these three Kingdoms ever since the Reformation of Religion, & how much their rage, power and presumption, are of late, and at this time increased and exercised; whereof the deplorable state of the Church & Kingdom of *Ireland*, the distressed estate of the Church and Kingdom of *England*, and the dangerous estate of the Church and Kingdom of *Scotland*, are present & publique Testimonies; We have now at last, (after other means of Supplication, Remonstrance, Protestations, and Sufferings) for the preser-

vation of our ſelves and our Religion, from utter Ruine and Deſtruction, according to the commendable practice of theſe Kingdoms in former times, and the Example of Gods people in other Nations; after mature deliberation, reſolved and determined to enter into a mutuall and ſolemn League and Covenant, wherein we all ſubſcribe, and each one of us for himſelf, with our hands lifted up to the moſt high God, do ſwear:

1. THat we ſhall ſincerely, really and conſtantly, through the Grace of God, endeavour in our ſeverall places and callings, the preſervation of the Reformed Religion in the Church of *Scotland*, in Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline & Government, againſt our common Enemies, the reformation of Religion in the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, in Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline and Government, according to the Word of God, and the Example of the beſt Reformed Churches, And ſhall indeavour to bring the Churches of God in the three Kingdoms, to the neereſt conjunction and Uniformity in Religion, confeſſion of Faith, Form of Church-government, directory for Worſhip and Catechizing; That we and our Poſterity after us, may as Brethren, live in Faith and Love, and the Lord may delight to dwell in the middeſt of us.

2. That we ſhall in like manner, without reſpect of perſons, indeavour the Extirpation of Popery, Prelacie, (that is, Church-government, by Arch-Biſhops, Biſhops, their Chancellors and Commiſſaries, Deans, Deans and Chapters, Archdeacons, and all other Eccleſiaſticall Officers depending on that Hierarchy) Superſtition, Hereſie, Schiſme, Prophaneneſſe, and what-

whatsoever shall be found to be contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of Godlinesse; lest we partake in other mens sins, and thereby be in danger to receive of their plagues, and that the Lord may be one, and his Name one in the three Kingdoms.

3. We shall with the same sincerity, reallity and constancy, in our severall Vocations, endeavour with our estates and lives, mutually to preserve the Rights and Priviledges of the Parliaments, and the Liberties of the Kingdomes, and to preserve and defend the Kings Majesties person and authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion, and Liberties of the Kingdomes, that the world may beare witnesse with our consciences of our Loyaltie, and that we have no thoughts or intentions to diminish His Majesties just power and greatnesse.

4. We shall also with all faithfullnesse endeavour the discovery of all such as have beene, or shall be Incendiaries, Malignants, or evill Instruments, by hindering the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from his people, or one of the Kingdoms from another, or making any Faction or parties amongst the people, contrary to this League & Covenant, that they may be brought to publick triall, and receive condigne punishment, as the degree of their offences shall require or deserve, or the supream Judicatories of both Kingdoms, respectively, or others having power from them for that effect, shall judge convenient.

5. And whereas the happinesse of a blessed Peace between these Kingdoms, denyed in former times to

our

our Progenitors, is by the good Providence of GOD granted unto us, and hath been lately concluded, and setled by both Parliaments, we shall each one of us, according to our place and interest, indeavour that they may remain conjoyned in a firm Peace and Union to all Posterity; And that Justice may be done upon the wilfull Opposers thereof, in manner expressed in the precedent Article.

6. We shall also according to our places & callings in this common cause of Religion, Liberty, and Peace of the Kingdomes, assist and defend all those that enter into this League and Covenant, in the maintaining & pursuing thereof, and shall not suffer our selves directly or indirectly by whatsoever combination, perswasion or terror, to be devided & withdrawn from this blessed Union & conjunction, whether to make defection to the contrary part, or to give our selves to a detestible indifferency or neutrality in this cause which so much concerneth the glory of God, the good of the Kingdoms, and honour of the King; but shall all the dayes of our lives zealously and constantly continue therein, against all opposition, and promote the same according to our power, against all Lets and Impediments whatsoever; and what we are not able our selves to suppresse or overcome, we shall reveale and make known, that it may be timely prevented or removed; All which we shall do as in the sight of God.

And because these Kingdoms are guilty of many sins & provocations against God, & his Son Jesus Christ as is too manifest by our present distresses and dangers, the fruits thereof; We professe and declare before God

and

and the world, our unfayned desire to be humbled for our own sins, & for the sins of these Kingdoms, especially, that we have not as we ought, valued the inestimable benefit of the Gospel, that we have not laboured for the purity and power thereof, and that we have not endeavored to receive Christ in our hearts, nor to walk worthy of him in our lives, which are the causes of other sins and Transgressions, so much abounding amongst us, and our true and unfayned purpose, desire, and endeavour for our selves, and all others under our power and charge, both in publick and in private, in all duties we owe to God and man, to amend our lives, and each one to go before another in the example of a reall Reformation, that the Lord may turne away his wrath, and heavy indignation, and establish these Churches and Kingdoms in truth and peace. And this Covenant we make in the presence of almighty God, the Searcher of all hearts, with a true intention to performe the same, as we shall answer at that great day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, Most humbly beseeching the Lord to strengthen us by his Holy Spirit for this end, and to blesse our desires and proceedings with such successe, as may be deliverance and safety to his people, & encouragement to the christian Churches groaning under, or in danger of the yoake of Anti-christian Tyranny, to joyne in the same, or like Association and Covenant, to the glory of God, the enlargement of the Kingome of Jesus Christ, and the peace and Tranquility of Christian Kingdoms and Commonwealths.

FINIS.

## Die Lunæ 25. Septemb. 1643.

IT is this Day Ordered by the Commons Assembled in Parliament, that the Miniſters in all the Pariſh-Churches and Chappells of London, Weſtminſter, Suburbs and Liberties, and in all the Pariſhes within the Bills of Mortalitie, do read the ſolmne League and Covenant on Wedneſday next, being the Day of Publique Humiliation; And do explaine it, and urge the ground and neceſsity of it, and exhort the People to the cheerfull taking of it, and that the ſeverall Inhabitants and Pariſhioners of the ſeverall and reſpective Pariſhes aforeſaid, and Students of the Innes of Court, do take the ſaid League and Covenant on the Lords-Day next in the afternoone: And that notice hereof be given to my Lord Maior, and his Lordſhip deſired to give timely notice hereof to the places aforeſaid: The Miniſters are likewiſe to give notice, that the Commiſsioners of Scotland now here, do take it here.

H: Elſynge, Cler: Parl: D: Com.